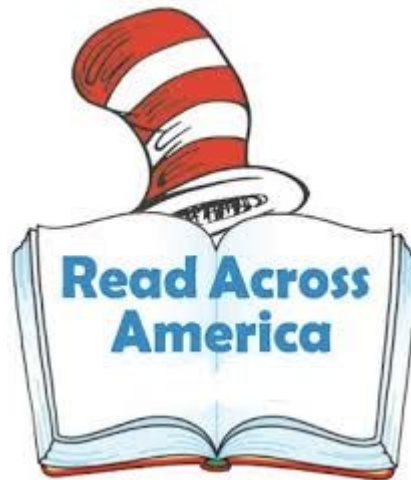




ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

February 26, 2021



Dear friend,

It's well known that reading carries with it countless benefits, and it's a skill that is applicable, and critical, throughout and in all areas of your life. March 1-5, 2021, will be recognized as "National Read Across America Week", with March 2, in particular, highlighted because it is the birthday of Theodore Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. In normal times, a number of local events would be held in recognition, but of course, Covid changes things. To find different ways you can celebrate, including a list of recommended books for students of all ages, visit <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america>.

Sincerely,

Bob

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper

In Case You Missed It

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Michelle's Nails and Spa in Racine is the Place for Pampering and Relaxation



Need a little maintenance for a big event? Looking for a little “me time” and pampering? Check out Michelle's Nails and Spa in Racine. Their nail techs are experts at all of the latest tricks, tools and designs and can do just what you are looking for. At Michelle's, quality customer service is their top priority. While they are open seven days a week, Covid protocols have limited capacity, so call ahead and schedule an appointment. Also take a look at their website, <http://michelles-nail-and-spa.business.site/>, and Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/michellesnailsandspa/?ref=page_internal.

Michelle's Nails and Spa
4111 Durand Ave.
Racine WI 53405
(262)800-3464
Open 7 Days a Week



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT



Governor Evers' Capital Budget Recommends Nearly \$10 Million for Kenosha Innovation Center

Businesses, entrepreneurs and job seekers in Kenosha and the surrounding communities got a big boost earlier this week when Governor Evers recommended \$9.75 million in state funding for Kenosha's proposed "innovation center" project. The innovation center is the cornerstone of redevelopment of the 107-acre Chrysler site. The \$9.75 million from the state would fulfill the city's entire request from the state and would cover half the cost of the project; the city would cover the rest. Mayor John Antaramian has been working tirelessly to bring this plan to fruition and is confident that state investment in the project will bring in additional grant funding, as well. According to the city, the plan would "foster neighborhood opportunities in education, workforce training, entrepreneurial development and job placement". It will focus on connecting residents with opportunities in high-growth digital fields, science, technology and math. If all goes as planned, construction is expected to start in early 2022.



Additional Rental Assistance Resources Available

With new federal funding available, and building off of the successful WRAP grant program, Governor Evers has announced a new emergency rental assistance program. The Wisconsin Emergency Rental

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper

Assistance Program (WERA) will provide direct financial assistance for rent, utilities, home energy costs and wraparound services for qualifying individuals and families. To be eligible, you must be a Wisconsin resident who demonstrates a risk of housing instability, have seen your income reduced by the Covid-19 pandemic, and/or earn a household income [at or below 80% of the county median income](#). Approved applicants can receive up to 12 months of assistance; rental and utility payments are made directly to the landlord and utility provider on behalf of the tenant. In Kenosha and Racine Counties, the program will be administered by the [Racine-Kenosha Community Action Agency](#). More details can be found [here](#).



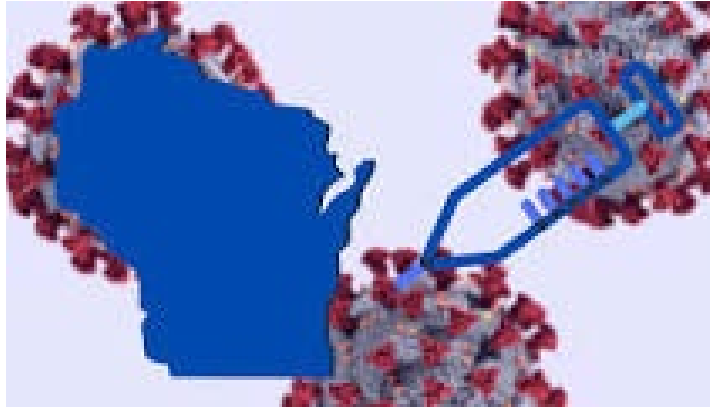
Wisconsin Republicans Jump on National Bandwagon, Introduce Slew of Bills to Limit Voting

Following Donald Trump's loss in the 2020 Presidential election, with traditional red states like Georgia and Arizona going for Joe Biden and Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan flipping back after voting for Trump in 2016, Republicans in state legislatures all around the country have introduced proposals to put new, more onerous restrictions on voting. Not wanting to be left out, GOP legislators here in Wisconsin have unveiled their own package of voter suppression bills. Specifically, the bills would put new limits on absentee voting, which was used widely in Wisconsin and elsewhere in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and was decried by Trump and his allies. These bills are the latest in a decade-long voter suppression effort by Wisconsin Republicans; the difference this time is Tony Evers in the Governor's office to play goalie against anything that makes it through the Legislature. To read more about these bills, check out [this story](#).



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT



Covid Vaccine Updates: 1 Million Shots Administered; Teachers Eligible; Racine County Selected for Covid Vaccination Clinic

We got quite a bit of news on the Covid-19 vaccination front this week, and it's good news. First, the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been found safe and effective. Here in Wisconsin, we reached a new milestone, as the one-millionth dose was administered. Wisconsin continues to be near the front of the pack in vaccination progress. It was announced that, beginning Monday, March 1, teachers will be eligible for vaccination. Finally, Governor Evers announced four new Covid-19 vaccination clinics, including one in Racine County. More details on that will be forthcoming.

Kenosha County operates a Covid-19 Vaccine Call Center. The call center is open to people who don't have access to schedule a vaccination appointment online. These people can call (262)605-6799 to speak with someone who will walk them through the appointment process, if they are eligible. The online list of Kenosha County Covid vaccine providers is still available, at <http://bit.ly/KCCOVIDHub>, as well.

People in Racine can sign up for email updates on vaccination progress at <https://crchd.com/covid-19-vaccine>.

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper



Local Covid Testing Options

There are a number of options locally for anyone looking to get tested. Your primary health care provider is always an option, but there are many community testing sites available, as well.

CVS Pharmacy: Drive-through testing available at CVS in Kenosha (3710 57th Ave.) and Racine (3915 Durand Ave.); advance registration required at <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

Froedert South: Drive-through testing is available to those who qualify after completing an initial phone evaluation at (262)671-7777 between 8 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

Kenosha Community Medical Center: A drive-through testing site at the former Chase Bank, 5506 Seventh Ave., is open to patients who complete a quick registration process at <https://www.kenoshachc.org/covid-19-resource-center/>. Testing is conducted Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 am to 4 pm.

Old Kenosha Fire Station No. 3: Free, drive-through testing will be offered during the following hours at the former No. 3 Fire Station, 2121 Roosevelt Rd., Kenosha: Tuesdays, 2-6 pm; Thursdays, 2-6 pm; Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm. This testing is being offered in a partnership between locally-owned Modern Apothecary, the Wisconsin DHS, and the Kenosha Fire Department. An appointment and preregistration is strongly encouraged, with appointment times available at <https://modernapothecary.10to8.com> and registration available at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>. Anyone who lives or works in Wisconsin, ages 5 and over, can be tested.

Festival Hall in Racine: Each Thursday, January 7 - March 4, from 9 am to 5 pm, at Festival Hall, 5 Fifth St., Racine. Pre-registration at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov> is encouraged.

To find other testing sites in the state, visit

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community-testing.htm>.

UW System schools statewide, including Parkside, have been provided with a limited number of rapid-result Covid-19 tests. These tests provide results in 15-30 minutes. The tests are free of charge and available to the public, and you don't have to have symptoms to get a test. A positive rapid test will need to be confirmed with the regular Covid-19 test but will provide you some guidance on whether or not you need to quarantine during that period. Registration at <https://www.doineedacovid19test.com> is required. The tests are administered in De Simone Gym in the SAC on the Parkside campus Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 5 pm, and Friday, 9 am - 1 pm. Testing is expected to last at least several weeks.

<https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/surge-testing.cfm>



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT



Governor Signs Bill to Update UI Processing and Payment System

Finally, help is on the way. Wisconsin's long-outdated unemployment insurance (UI) system, used to process and pay claims, will get a significant upgrade as a result of a special session called by Governor Tony Evers and the resulting legislation. In bipartisan fashion, the Senate and Assembly passed the bill, and Governor Evers immediately signed it into law. Problems with Wisconsin's 1970s-era system have been known about for many years. A 2014 Legislative Audit Bureau report warned that the system would buckle under a wave of new claims, such as we experienced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. At the time, Governor Scott Walker and the Legislature's Republican majority chose to do nothing.



Budget News and Details

To read a detailed and in-depth analysis of Governor Evers' budget proposal, you can visit the Department of Administration's Executive Budget page, <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/2021-23%20Executive%20Budget.aspx>. You can also find a nonpartisan analysis of the Governor's budget

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper

proposal by the Legislative Reference Bureau at
https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/010_2021_budget_bill_analysis.pdf.